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ITEM NO=00563722
DTG 252238Z JAN 96
FROM FM FBIS ABIDJAN IV
TO TO RUCWAAA/FBIS RESTON VA
RHDLCNE/CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK//N2//
RHHJJAA/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
RHIUFAA/CDR JPOTFSWA//AOCP-POG/ANALYST//
RUCLBBA/USCENTAF SHAW AFB SC//A2//
RUCLBMA/33OSS EGLIN AFB FL//OSN//
RUCMACC/CDR PSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//ASOF-POG-SB//
RUCQAAA/USCINCCENT INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUCWAAA/FBIS RESTON VA//POLCH//
RUDHNIS/DIRNAVCRIMINVSERV WASHINGTON DC
RUDHSIC/CDRUSASOIC WASH DC//DIS//
RUDMQAN/MARCORINTACT DET QUANTICO VA
RUDPMAX/FAISA FT BRAGG NC
RUDPWDC/DA AMHS WASHINGTON DC
RUEABND/DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMIN HQ WASHINGTON DC//POL//
RUEAIIS/STORAGE CENTER FBIS RESTON VA
RUEALGX/DEFINTAGNCY WASH DC
RUEBFGA/VOA WASHINGTON DC
RUEDADA/AFISA AMHS BOLLING AFB DC
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
RUETIAV/MPC FT GEO G MEADE MD
RUFOADA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK//DOAM//
RUFQBBA/US SURVEY SEC SHAPE BE
RUWTAEA/NAIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH//TAI//
CONTROLS
UNCLAS 8B

WARNING: ATTN CIFM

SERIAL: AB2501223896

BODY
COUNTRY: SOMALIA
SUBJ: SOMALILAND PRESIDENT EGAL SPEAKS ON MYSTERIOUS BOMB BLAST

SOURCE: LONDON BBC WORLD SERVICE IN ENGLISH 1705 GMT 25 JAN 96
TEXT:

FROM THE "FOCUS ON AFRICA" PROGRAM

FBIS TRANSCRIBED TEXT THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THIS WEEK OF MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSIONS IN THE REMOTE EASTERN REGION OF THE SELF-DECLARED REPUBLIC OF SOMALILAND. THEY APPARENTLY OCCURRED IN DECEMBER, BUT BECAUSE OF THE REMOTE NATURE OF THE AREA HAVE BEEN SLOW COMING TO LIGHT. THE BLASTS HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO VARIOUS CAUSES FROM UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, UFO'S, TO ROCKET TESTS. WELL, SOMALILAND LEADER, MOHAMED EGAL, HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO THE

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MATTER. ON THE LINE TO HARGESA, TIMOTHY ECOTT ASKED HIM WHAT HE THOUGHT HAD BEEN GOING ON.

BEGIN RECORDING EGAL WE HAVE THESE MYSTERIOUS REPORTS FROM OUR NOMADIC POPULATION THERE, AND THEN, I SENT A FOUR-MAN COMMISSION, TWO DOCTORS, A VETERAN DOCTOR, AND ONE MINISTER, AND THEY HAVE SUBMITTED TO US A REPORT, WHICH IS VERY, VERY ALARMING. THEY SAID THAT THEY WENT THERE ALMOST A FORTNIGHT AFTER THIS THING HAS TAKEN PLACE AND THEY FOUND MOST OF THE ANIMALS IN THE AREA ARE STILL IN A SORT OF A DEMENTED STAGE. THEY WERE NOT GRAZING, THEY WERE JUST STAMPEDING ALL OVER THE PLACE.

ECOTT YOU SAID THE ANIMALS WERE DEMENTED. WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE LIVING THERE?

EGAL SOME OF THEM, WHO WERE VERY CLOSE TO THE AREA, HAVE GOT SKIN RASHES, AND SOME OF THEM ARE HAVING VERY, VERY BIG PROBLEM. THEY ARE ALMOST (?SHEDDING THEIR OUTER SKIN), THERE ARE WORDS INDISTINCT BOILS ALL OVER THE PLACE, AND SOME OF THEM ARE HAVING STOMACH ACHES, YOU KNOW, AND VERY UNUSUAL MOTIONS -- STOMACH MOTION -- AND A LOT OF SYMPTOMS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. WE ARE SENDING BACK SOME DOCTORS TO ACTUALLY EVALUATE THE HUMAN DAMAGE AND THE ANIMAL DAMAGE THAT HAS BEEN DONE.

ECOTT DID ANYONE GET AN EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF WHAT THIS EXPLOSION MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY?

EGAL THE PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE, YOU KNOW, THE STORIES THEY TELL IS THAT THEY HEARD NO NOISE. APPARENTLY WHATEVER EXPLODED WAS MOVING AT A SUPERSONIC SPEED, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO PRIOR NOISE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. YOU KNOW, THEY JUST HEARD A VERY, VERY, VERY LOUD EXPLOSION WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE AND THE LIGHT, YOU KNOW, THE LIGHT OF THE EXPLOSION IN THE AIR. THE AREA IS SO BIG THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE CAPABILITY OR THE TIME TO INVESTIGATE THE WHOLE GROUND AND TRY AND PICK UP ANY DEBRIS THAT MIGHT HAVE FALLEN. THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO THAT.

ECOTT WHATEVER YOUR AUTHORITY IS CLAIMING THAT THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN, SOME OF THE NEWS AGENCIES ARE TALKING ABOUT UFO'S.

EGAL NO, NO, NO, NO, WE ARE NOT MAKING ANY CLAIMS OF THAT OR ANY FANTASTIC CLAIMS LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW. WHAT WE THINK HAPPENED IS THAT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A MISSILE FIRED FROM SOMEWHERE, WHICH HAS EXPLODED EITHER DELIBERATELY OVER OUR COUNTRY OR WHETHER IT HAS EXPLODED INADVERTENTLY, WE CAN'T TELL. SO, WHAT WE ARE ASKING NOW, PEOPLE LIKE THE ENGLISH, AND FRENCH, AND ESPECIALLY THE AMERICANS WHO MONITOR THE WORLD, THEY MUST KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, YOU KNOW. THEY DEFINITELY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, THEY ARE MONITORING THE WHOLE WORLD, RECONNAISSANCE 24 HOURS A DAY, YOU KNOW. AND THEY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. IF IT WAS SADDAM HUSAYN WHO FIRED THE MISSILE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE HEADLINES ALL OVER THE WORLD. BUT APPARENTLY WHOEVER FIRED THE MISSILE IS STILL IN THE GOOD BOOKS OF THOSE WHO KNOW, AND THEY DON'T WANT TO PUBLICIZE IT. BUT WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO US SO THAT AT LEAST WE WILL KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH IT.

ECOTT IS ANYBODY OFFERING YOU HELP TO INVESTIGATE AND TO LOOK AFTER THE PEOPLE YOU SAY HAVE BEEN INJURED?

EGAL WELL, WE HAVE SENT IT -- YES -- TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, YOU KNOW. WE HAVE SENT IT TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY, WE HAVE SENT IT

TO THE FRENCH EMBASSY, AND WE HAVE SENT TO THE BBC, AND TO THE REUTERS AND PEOPLE LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW. NOBODY HAS YET RESPONDED, BUT WE HAVE MADE THE APPEAL AND WE ARE STILL MAKING IT. END RECORDING